



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

1315 W. 4th Avenue • Kennewick, Washington 99336-6018 • (509) 735-7581

May 3, 1995

Mr. Wayne Slater
Pacific Northwest Laboratories
P.O. Box 999
Richland, WA 99352

Dear Mr. Slater:

Re: Simulated High Level Waste Slurry Treatment and Storage Unit Closure
(SHLWS)

The analytical results of samples taken on November 8, 1994, at the SHLWS unit, reveal an unusually high concentration of lead (approximately 100 ppm) in the soil. Process knowledge records of this unit show that work performed during the operational period and the remediation and decontamination of this unit did not produce such high concentrations of lead. The Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) believes that high lead concentrations found over the SHLWS site did not result from this unit, but from past practices, in the area.

During the Data Quality Objective process for the SHLWS unit, our team agreed to use a MTCA Method A value for lead for residential clean closure, because there is no value for Method B for lead. Because of the lead concentrations being high, although below Method A levels, it is necessary to track this observance. It is Ecology's recommendation the resolution of this issue be deferred to a past practice operable unit.

It must be noted that one sample of Cerium, concentration of (63 ppm) exceeds the natural earth crusted averages (60 ppm). This value is, however, within the known range of natural occurrence, therefore Cerium is also not an issue.

If you have any questions regarding the above, please call me at (509) 736-3025.

Sincerely,

Greta P. Davis
Nuclear Waste Program

GD:mf

cc: Ellen Mattlin, USDOE
Brian Day, PNL
Joan Bartz, MACTC

Clark Lindenmeier, PNL
Lawrence Gaddis, ICFKH
Administrative Record, SHLWS

